South Ascot Recreation Ground

I am unable to attend the Parish Council meeting on 30th November, so have provided a note to explain what has been achieved so far.

I agreed to talk to a Senior Council Officer about the possibility of RBWM assisting the Parish Council in renewing the lease.

I have had a conversation with Mr Duncan Sharkey, the Chief Executive of RBWM, explaining the current difficulties the Parish Council have experienced since 2012 when the lease expired and he agreed that RBWM would be prepared to enter into a lease with the Sunninghill Trust for the Recreation Ground, including Hyns Green and the strip of land on Brockenhurst Rd. and sub-let it to the Parish Council. He requested that the Parish Council write formally to him explaining in detail the terms of the lease they would like to agree.

In conversation with your Chair, I agreed to write a draft of that letter and that draft letter has been sent.

It is of value to explain some of the negotiations that have taken place with Sunninghill Trust over a long period of time. More than 6 years ago a number of PC councillors and their solicitor met with Sunninghill Trust to discuss the lease. Neither party had definitive maps showing the land that was included within the lease and a difference of opinion led to the meeting being abortive.

I established that the solicitors who drafted the lease did not have a plan showing the land included in the lease and armed with all the historic information available in the Parish Office, Cllrs. Wood, Story, ex Cllr. Humphries and myself walked the site and arrived at the conclusion that areas of land on plans EO2766 and EO2937were legitimately included.

The Parish Council then wrote to Sunninghill Trust accepting responsibility for Hyns Green plan EO2932, as well as the recreation ground, requesting a 25 years lease and agreeing to pay for the valuation of the land. To the best of my knowledge there has been no response to the letter.

Sunninghill Trust continues to offer a 7-year lease which the Chief Executive of RBWM states is too short to responsibly invest in the recreation ground

In the past I introduced the representative of Sunninghill Trust to Senior Council Officers and it is my belief that a further meeting would lead to a positive outcome.

I am happy to meet with Parish Councillors to discuss the South Ascot Recreation Ground in greater detail.

Cllr. David Hilton